

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-06

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C O N F I D E N T I A L KABUL 7021

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINS, PK, AF
SUBJECT: ARREST OF QADER, SHAHPOOR, AND AKBAR: ALLEGED INVOLVEMENT
OF THE U.S. AND OTHER GOVERNMENTS

REF: MEMCON BY J. FRERES, AUG 26, 1978, COPY SENT TO NEA/PAB
AND INR

1. SUMMARY: SINCE THE ARREST OF ALLEGED CONSPIRATORS, FORMER
DEFENSE MINISTER, GENERAL ABDUL QADER; FORMER CHIEF OF GENERAL
STAFF, GENERAL SHAHPOOR; AND JAMHURIAT HOSPITAL CHIEF, DR. MIR
ALI AKBAR; REPORTS HAVE BEEN CIRCULATING IN KABUL OF THE PURPORTED
INVOLVEMENT OF THE U.S. AND OTHER GOVERNMENTS WITH THE PLOTTERS.
AS OPPORTUNITIES ARISE, WE INTEND TO REITERATE TO HIGH-LEVEL
AFGHAN OFFICIALS THE U.S. POLICY OF NON-INVOLVEMENT IN AFGHAN
INTERNAL AFFAIRS. END SUMMARY.

2. WHILE THE ACCOUNTS OF ALLEGED FOREIGN COMPLICITY VARY, PERHAPS
THE MOST AUTHORITATIVE SO FAR COMES FROM OUR EMBASSY LOCAL EMPLOYEE
WHO IS THE BROTHER OF MOHAMMAD ISMAIL DANESH, MINISTER OF MINES
AND INDUSTRIES. THIS EMPLOYEE INFORMED US THAT ON AUGUST 25,
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DURING A MEETING WITH HIS BROTHER, THE MINISTER CLAIMED THAT
"THEY" HAD FOUND "DOCUMENTS" CONNECTING FORMER DEFENSE MINISTER
QADER WITH THE U.S. THE MINISTER ASSERTED THAT THE DOCUMENTS
PROVED THE USG IS INTERFERING IN AFGHANISTAN'S INTERNAL AFFAIRS
AND IS TRYING TO OVERTHROW THE KHALQ GOVERNMENT. THE LOCAL SAID
HE TRIED TO COUNTER THE MINISTER'S ARGUMENTS BY SAYING THAT THE
USG WOULD NOT INTERVENE AND WOULD NOT, IN ANY CASE, PROVIDE DOCU-

MENTS ABOUT ITS PURPORTED SUBVERSIVE EFFORTS. THE MINISTER REMAINED UNCONVINCED. OUR EMPLOYEE ADDED THAT THE MINISTER BELIEVES THE US, IRAN, PAKISTAN, AND CHINA ARE ALL CONSPIRING AGAINST THE DRA.

3. ANOTHER REPORT CIRCULATING OMITTS THE IRANIANS AS CONSPIRATORS, WHILE A THIRD CLAIMS THE U.S.AMBASSADOR IN ISLAMABAD SENT ENVOYS TO THE QADER-SHAHPOOR GROUP AND, BY IMPLICATION, PROVIDED THAT GROUP SUPPORT.

4. COMMENT: ON ALMOST EVERY OCCASION THAT I, OTHER HIGH-LEVEL EMBASSY OFFICIALS, AND WASHINGTON VISITORS HAVE MET WITH TARAKI, AMIN, AND OTHER CABINET MINISTERS, WE HAVE MPHASIZED THE U.S. POLICY OF NON-INTERFERENCE IN THE INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF AFGHANISTAN.

5. WHEN I NEXT SEE AMIN, I PLAN TO REITERATE THIS POINT, MENTION-
ING SPECIFICALL Y THE CIRCULATING RUMORS. I WILL POINT OUT TO HIME
THAT OVER THE YEARS, MEMBERS OF OUR EMBASSY HAVE BEEN APPROACHED
BY VARIOUS AFGHANS ASKING FOR U.S. SUPPORT FOR THEIR PARTICULAR
GROUP. IN ALL CASES, WE HAVE REFUSED SUCH SUPPORT; AND, WHEN WE
SAY WE WANT GOOD RELATIONS WITH THE GOVERNMENT OF AFGHANISTAN,
WHETHER IT BE A MONARCHY OR DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC, WE DO NOT TALK
WITH FORKED TONGUES. IF THERE ARE ALLEGATIONS OF U.S. INTERFERENCE,
I WOULD BE PREPARED TO DISCUSS THEM AT ANY TIME. I WOULD ALSO
TELL HIM THAT FROM MY OWN DIPLOMATIC EXPERIENCE, I HAVE FOUND THAT
THIRD-COUNTRY GOVERNMENTS HOSTILE TO THE U.S. HAVE OCCASIONALLY
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NOT BEEN AVERSE TO FABRICATING DOCUMENTS, HOPING THEREBY TO
EMBARRASS US. LASTLY, I WOULD REMIND HIM THAT WERE WE CONSPIRING
AGAINST THEGOVERNMENT, WE WOULD NOT HAVE SIGNED THE RECENT \$3.2
MILLION AID AGREEMENT FOR THE HELMAND VALLEY, WOULD HAVE VETOED THE
DC-10 SALE, AND NOT BEEN OFFERING ECONOMIC AID ON A WHOLE RANGE OF
AID PROJECTS.

6. THE DEPARTMENT SHOULD BE AWARE AGAIN, THAT NOTWITHSTANDING
ANY ASSURANCES WE MAY GIVE, THE POSSIBILITY EXISTS THAT IF THE
TARAKI REGIME FEELS DESPERATE OR THREATENED ENOUGH, IT MAY TROT
OUT SO-CALLED "PROFF" OF FOREIGN INVOLVEMENT. WE SUSPECT THE
AFGHAN GOVERNMENT IS AWARE THAT MINISTER DANESH'S REMARKS WOULD
BE CONVEYED TO US, AND BELIEVES THEREBY THAT WE HAVE BEEN PUT ON
NOTICE THAT THE AFGHAN GOVERNMENT VIEWS THE U.S. WITH CONSIDERABLE
SUSPICION.
DUBS

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